

Sustaining Interdisciplinary Research Initiatives

"So, we started this thing. How do we keep it going?"

Eva Allen
Indiana University



Sarah Archibald
University of
Wisconsin-Madison



Maureen Langlois &
Amy Spellacy
The Ohio State
University



What We Want (You) To Get Out of Today

- Approaches to sustaining interdisciplinary initiatives
- A sense that others are facing similar challenges and have ideas!
- Contacts to help build your regional network



Plan for today's session

- Introductions
- Who's here?
- Brief presentation on 4 themes:
 - Integrating an initiative into established institutional structures
 - Expanding the research community
 - Balancing scope creep and opportunity costs
 - Escaping burnout and roadblocks (cultural & financial)
- Small group discussions
- Q & A and large group discussion



DISCOVERY AT OHIO STATE

The Discovery Themes initiative is nurturing interdisciplinary research that maximizes Ohio State's talent to better address the world's critical challenges.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CHRONIC BRAIN INJURY

GLOBAL ARTS & HUMANITIES

TRANSLATIONAL DATA ANALYTICS

SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT ECONOMY

FOODS FOR HEALTH

FOOD & AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

MATERIALS & MANUFACTURING FOR SUSTAINABILITY



[DISCOVERY.OSU.EDU](https://discovery.osu.edu)



Grand Challenge

Prepared for Environmental Change

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE INSTITUTE



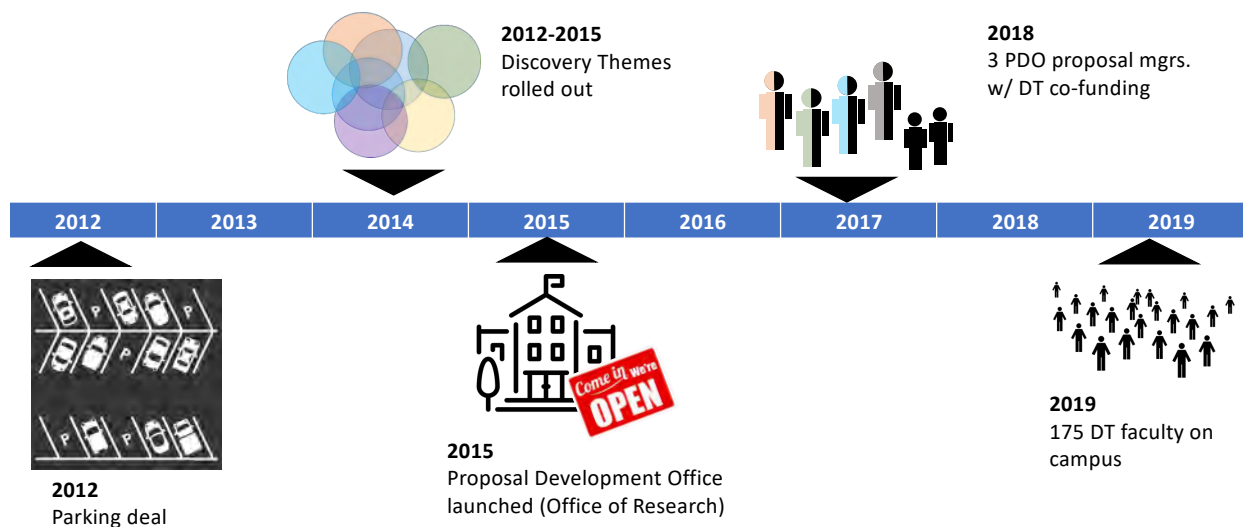
Who's in the Room?



Integrating an
initiative into
established
institutional
structures

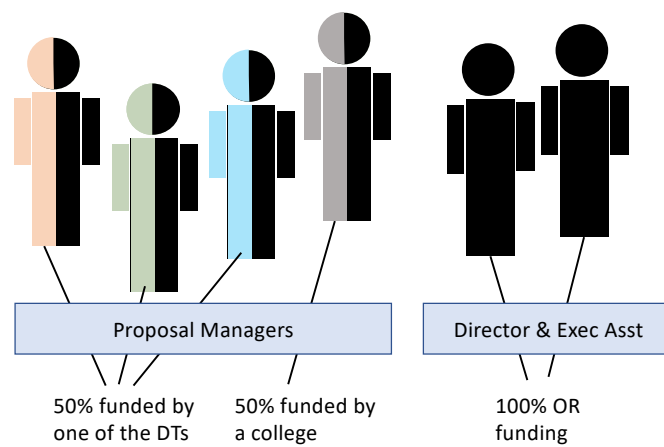
Image: <https://digitaltrends.com>

Ohio State's RD co-funding model

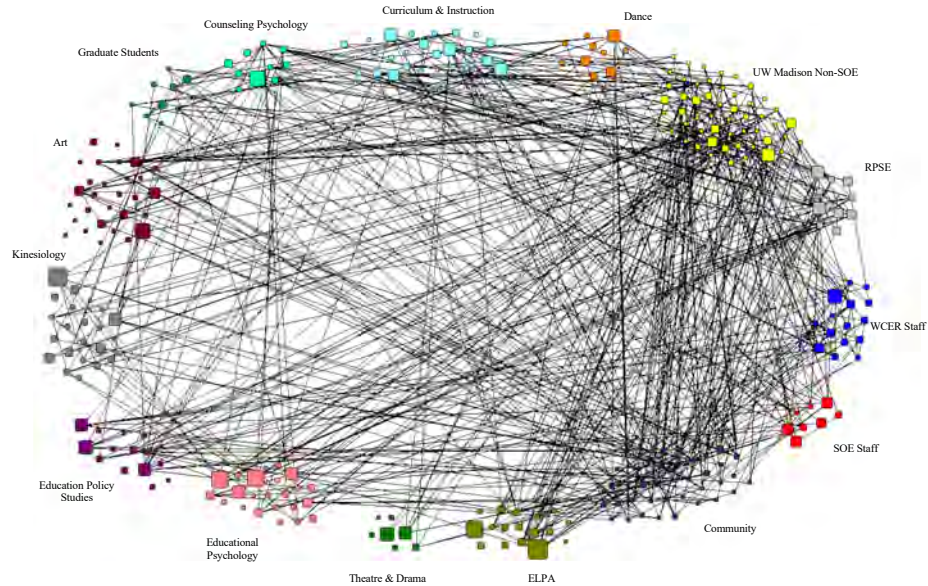


Images: discovery.osu.edu; [Ebay.co.uk](https://ebay.co.uk); Magicon and Arjan Farzkenari, nounproject.org; istockphoto.com

How's it working?



GC Competitions (Engage, Transform, Seed), 2017-2019



Ties = proposal, Node size = # touches across all comps



Interviews

Initial Consultations

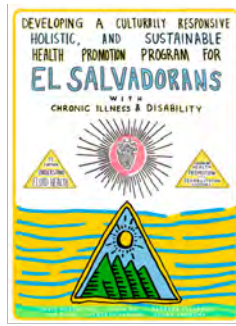
Meet-ups

Spark Lunches & Dinners

Writing Parties

Poster Fairs





Balancing scope creep and opportunity costs

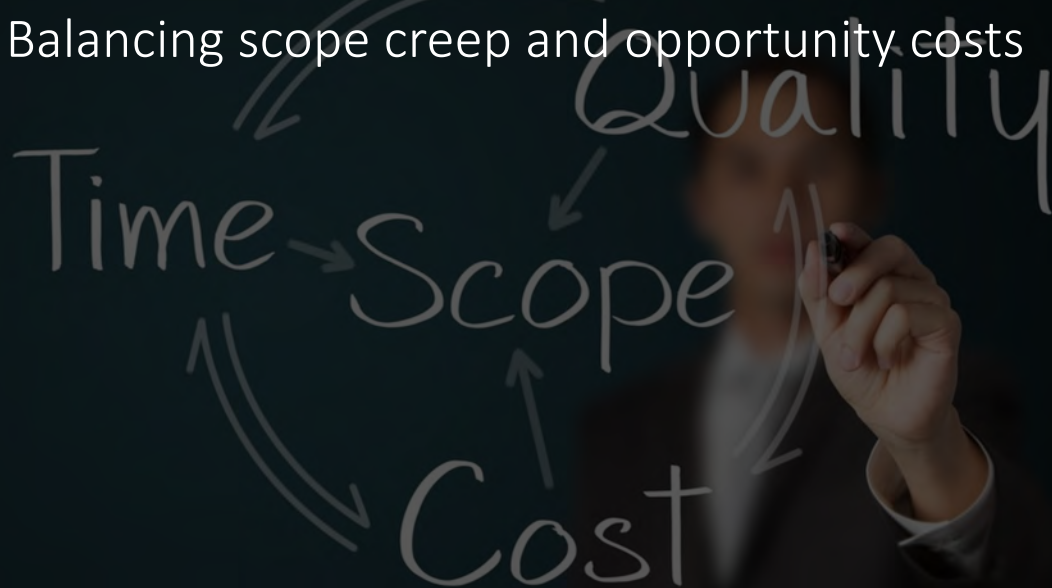


Image source: <https://www.avatria.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Scope-Creep.jpg>



Image source: <https://www.proofhub.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/S.M.A.R.T-Goal-Setting-Practices-for-Project-Managers.png>

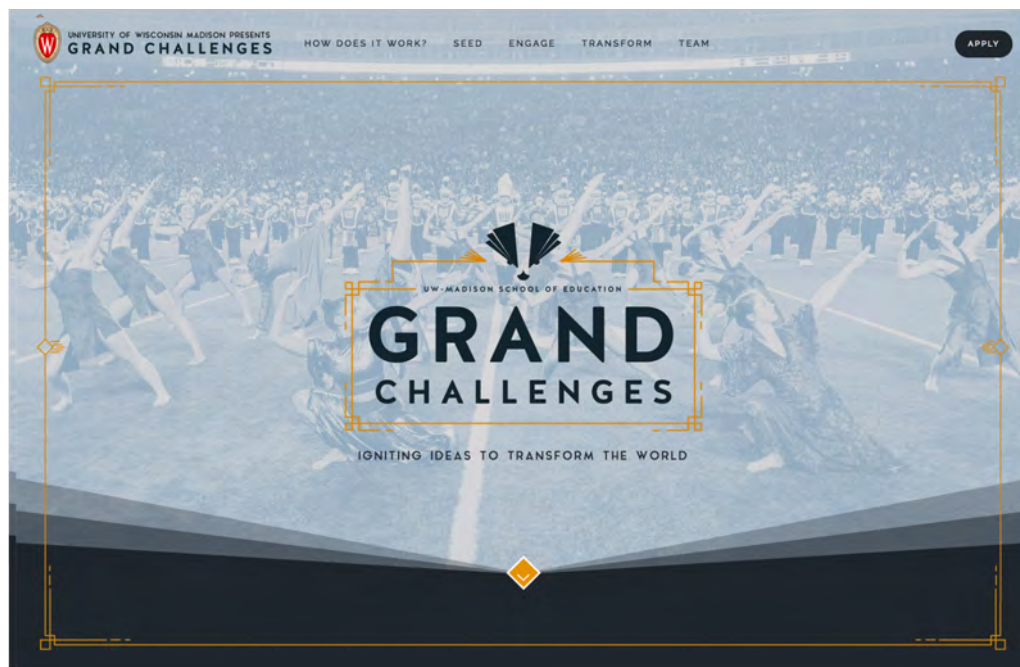


Image source: <https://www.impactbnd.com/hubs/cant-miss-ways-to-overcome-any-creative-roadblock.jpg>

Get yourself connected!



The Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Research are pleased to partner with Advancement on a new series of events that will showcase the extraordinary interdisciplinary work being pursued at Ohio State. In the coming months, we will host four Intersections events, each featuring several short talks by faculty, to inform Ohio State staff who connect with potential partners and investors about funding opportunities.



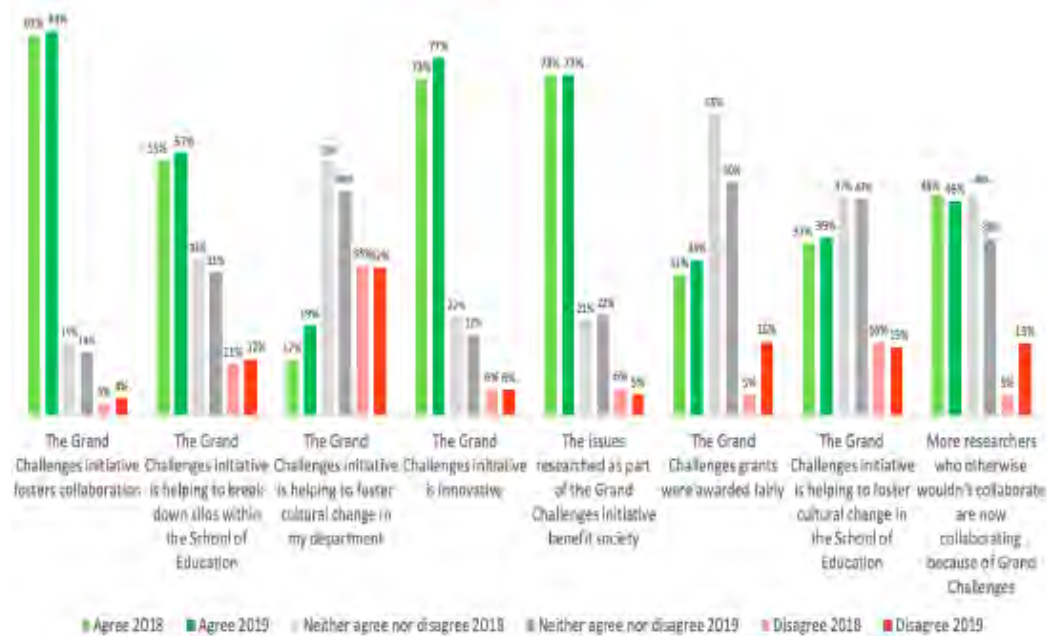
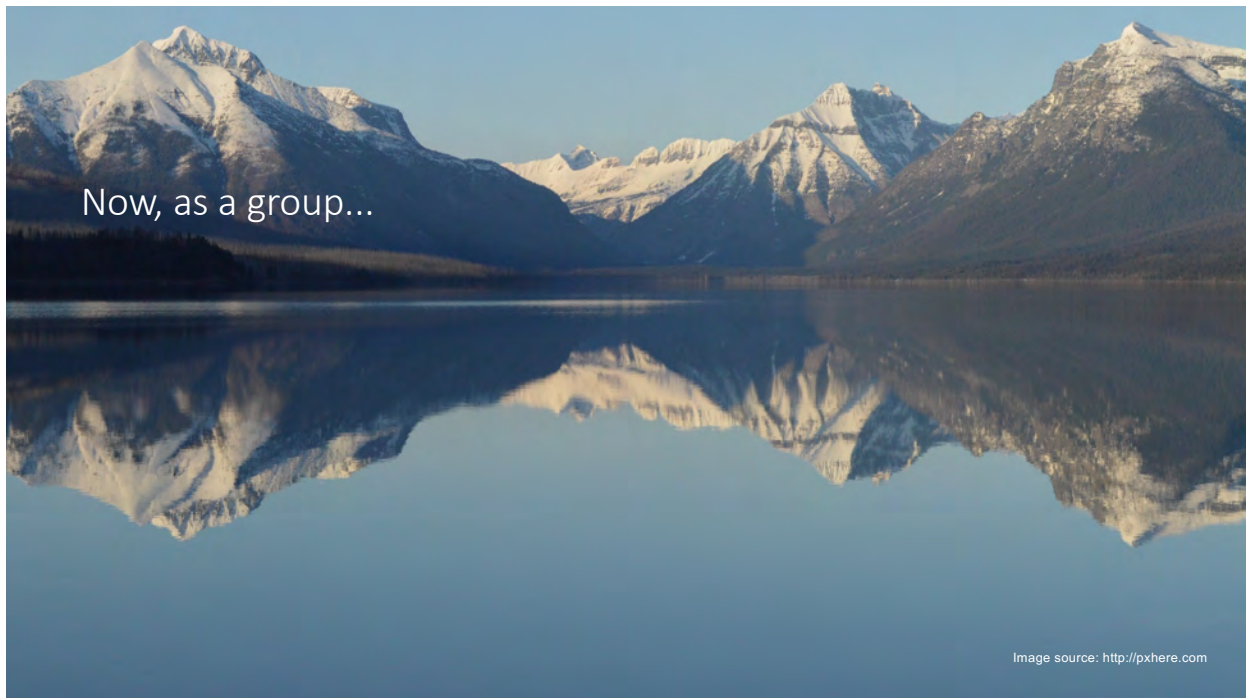


Table Introductions

- 1 minute to gather your thoughts
- Introductions
 - Name
 - Where are you from
 - Why you chose this session
- What resonates with you today
 - Questions
 - Best practices or ideas
 - Pits / Peaks



Group Discussion

- Integrating an initiative into established institutional structures
- Expanding the research community
- Balancing scope creep and opportunity costs
- Escaping burnout and roadblocks (cultural & financial)

Reach out with questions!



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A photograph of a woman in a blue long-sleeved shirt and jeans helping a young child in a red and white striped shirt and a black helmet learn to ride a bicycle. The woman is standing behind the child, with her hands near the bike's handlebars and seat. The child is sitting on the bike, holding the handlebars. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a house and trees.

transitioning
from the
founding
funding source

Image source: <https://www.herfamily.ie/parenthood/parents-paying-professionals-teach-child-ride-bike-273189>